

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 00228 131251Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 073265

O R 131115Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5627

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0228

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS COMUSFORAZ AND USMISSION NATO

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: DEMARCHE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

REFS: (A) STATE 6141 (DTG 100046Z JAN 76), (B) LISBON

197 (DTG 121534Z JAN 76), (C) PONTA DELGADA 18 (DTG 121145Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED RESUMPTION CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS THROUGH AZORES. CLAIMED "LEGAL" CONSIDERATIONS HINDERED PAST ACTION, BUT THAT GOP WOULD MAKE "POLITICAL DEMARCHE" TO CUBANS BECAUSE OF USG CONCERN. RE MPLA RECOGNITION, ACTING FONMIN STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT GOP WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA UNLESS AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS DEVELOPED IN THAT DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE FONMIN MELO ANTUNES IN BUDAPEST, ACTING FONMIN MEDEIROS FERREIRA RECEIVED ME EVENING JAN 12 AT MY REQUEST TO DISCUSS (A) RESUMPTION OF CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES AND (B) GOP POSITION ON MPLA RECOGNITION.

2. CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES: AFTER REVIEWING RECORD OF OUR PREVIOUS APPROACHES TO GOP ON CUBAN FLIGHTS (LISBON 10; 122; CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 00228 131251Z

142; 176) OF WHICH FERREIRA WAS AWARE, I TOLD HIM WE WERE

BOTH SURPRISED AND CONCERNED AT THE RESUMPTION OF CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS VIA AZORES. I AGAIN WENT OVER THE MILITARY NATURE OF THE FLIGHTS; THEIR NON-COMMERCIAL ASPECT; CUBA'S ARMED INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

3. FERREIRA DID NOT DENY RESUMPTION OF CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS, NOR DID HE PLEAD IGNORANCE. HE CLAIMED THAT THESE FLIGHTS REPRESENTED A "REAL LEGAL PROBLEM" FOR GOP; THAT THE GOP/GOC BILATERAL AIR ACCORD PERMITTED SUCH LANDINGS, ETC. I TOLD HIM IT WAS VERY HARD FOR US TO ACCEPT THAT THE "LEGAL" ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WAS THE DETERMINING FACTOR. IN ANY CASE, BASED ON THE PREVIOUS ASSURANCES WE HAD BEEN GIVEN, WE WERE VERY CONCERNED AND HOPED THAT THE GOP WOULD TAKE DEFINITIVE STEPS TO END CUBAN TRANSIT OF THE AZORES.

4. IN VIEW OF OUR CONCERN, FERREIRA SAID THAT THE GOP WOULD MAKE A "POLITICAL DEMARCHE" TO THE CUBANS REGARDING THEIR AZORES TRANSIT. I SAID WE SERIOUSLY HOPED THAT THIS DEMARCHE WOULD RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

5. MPLA RECOGNITION: I NEXT RAISED MPLA RECOGNITION, DRAWING ON REFTEL (A), OTHERN-:(&497,\$ 53) , AND POINTS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE WITH OTHER GOP LEADERS. FERREIRA SAID HE COULD "ASSURE US CATEGORICALLY" THAT THE GOP WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AS THE SOLE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA PENDING AN OAU RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE, IF THERE WAS ONE. THE GOP FAVORED THE POSITION TAKEN BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR. SPEAKING AS A SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER AND NOT AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, FERREIRA THEN SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, SOARES AND THE SOCIALISTS WERE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO MPLA RECOGNITION, BUT THERE WAS A PRO-MPLA LOBBY INSIDE THE GOP. FERREIRA SAID THAT GOP POLICY WOULD BE TO FOLLOW AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS AND WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE SIZE OF THE CONSENSUS. FERREIRA SAID THE GOP DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD BRING. I WELCOMED HIS ASSURANCES OF GOP NONRECOGNITION OF MPLA, AND FERREIRA REITERATED THAT POSITION OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE DECISIVE FOR GOP.

6. COMMENT: RE CUBAN TRANSIT FLIGHTS THERE MAY BE SOME PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 00228 131251Z

PROBLEM IS CLEARLY NOT A LEGAL ONE. THE POLITICAL DECISION -- WHICH WE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE WAS MADE -- APPARENTLY STILL HAS TO BE CARRIED OUT. WE HAVE ALREADY PASSED WORD ABOUT RESUMPTION OF AZORES TRANSIT TO SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO AND CAN BE ALMOST CERTAIN THEY WILL SHARE OUR CONCERN. WE ARE ALSO PASSING THE WORD TO PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO AND I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH HIM DIRECTLY IF NECESSARY.
OKUN

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANDING RIGHTS, RECOGNITION, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, AZORES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON00228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0054
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760163/aaaacdr.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 6141
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLA: DEMARCHE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAIR, PO, US, CU, MPLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006